

message. It signals that it is permissible to discriminate based on sexual orientation. I find this particularly inappropriate for the Federal government which should be doing everything possible to discourage all forms of discrimination.

Last fall, at my request, the Subcommittee on Civil Service held a series of hearings on employment discrimination in the Federal workplace. During these hearings, the current evidence of discriminatory conduct in the Federal workplace was overwhelming. I asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) to look into this matter, and in a report issued last month GAO found that the number of Federal employee discrimination complaints has risen sharply over the past few years. Clearly, more must be done to stamp out discrimination. What the Helfey amendment does is promote it.

RECOGNITION OF LEESBURG STUDENTS IN AAA "NATIONAL AUTO SKILLS" CONTEST

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize two young students. They are Jason Kmak, age 17, and Gregory J. Welch, age 19. These two students represented Virginia and placed second in this year's American Automobile Association (AAA) "National Auto Skills Contest." Jason and Gregory competed as a team from the C.S. Monroe Technical Center in Leesburg, Virginia, against 49 other teams across the nation and represented AAA Potomac.

The annual competition pits the best high school auto repair teams in the nation against each other. Nationwide, more than 5,000 students competed in the competition. Over \$8 million in scholarship money is awarded in the contest. The competition is based on written exams and a timed challenge for teams to find and fix bugs deliberated created in an automobile. Only the team from Oregon placed better than Virginia's team.

Mr. Speaker, today's automobiles have more computer processing power than the first Apollo spacecraft. According to AAA, a 1998 Ford automobile has about 84 percent its functions controlled by computers, compared with 14 percent for 1990 models. The skills needed to repair automobiles today are complex and highly technical. These students displayed amazing talent by placing second in the competition. As second place winners, they will be awarded scholarships worth thousands of dollars. The team's efforts have also earned their Leesburg school a Ford vehicle for use in the school's automotive training program.

Mr. Speaker, more students should be encouraged to learn computer and advanced technology skills because it is the way of the future. From automobiles to television sets to the Internet, students must learn these skills if our nation is to remain globally competitive. I commend Jason and Gregory on their hard work and achievement, encourage them to continue to build on this success, and wish them all the very best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS S. CHAN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and to honor the memory of the late Thomas S. Chan of Sacramento, CA. As Mr. Chan is memorialized today he will be remembered by his many friends and family members as an intelligent businessman and dedicated community leader.

Mr. Chan was a true Sacramentan. Born on July 17, 1919 he was raised in Sacramento and has always called Sacramento home. He graduated from Sacramento High School in 1937. In 1942, he met Mae Chuck and the two were wed in 1947.

Tom Chan devoted much of energy into helping his family's produce business flourish. Begun by his father, Mr. Chan assumed management of General Produce Co. during the 1950s. Yet the produce business was not the only field in which Tom Chan excelled. He went on to establish himself as one of Sacramento's most innovative retailers and custom home developers. He was also an immensely talented furniture craftsman as well as an avid sportsman. General Produce Co., South Land Park Terrace, and Riverside Estates will endure as Thomas Chan's lasting legacy in Sacramento.

But like his father, Tom also leaves behind a wonderful family, friends, and a community of people who are better for having known him.

The Chan family will always hold a special place in my memories. When my family and I returned to Sacramento after the incarceration of Japanese Americans, we had few possessions, little money, and no income. Moreover, because of the internment, there was a presumption of guilt and a suspicion of Americans of Japanese ancestry throughout California.

But amidst such indignities, there were families like the Chans who reached out to my family and others like us.

My father, who was forced to give up his own produce business when the internment order came, was hired by Tom's father to work at General Produce, where he worked with and for Tom Chan for more than 30 years.

There are scores of people and families who have been similarly influenced by Tom Chan and his family. It is they who will feel the great loss in our community and remember him as an admired leader.

Mr. Speaker, as Thomas S. Chan is laid to rest today in Sacramento, I respectfully ask all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating his dual legacies as a successful businessman and beloved family figure. Our thoughts are with Mae Chan, Tom's four children, and two grandchildren during their most difficult time.

HONORING BAISAKHI-1999

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor BAISAKHI-1999, which is the Tercentenary Celebration of the birth of Khalsa.

BAISAKHI-1999 is where Indian-Americans, the government of Punjab, and the people of India will celebrate the rich Khalsa heritage of the last three hundred years. It will offer everyone an opportunity to reflect on Sikh values and traditions.

Punjab, India, is the land where the soul of Kabir found its resonance in the inspirational hymns of Guru Nanak, and the grandeur of Guru Gobind Singh's spirit inspired countless people. Punjab has always been known for the rich heritage of Sikh culture.

BAISAKHI-1999 represents the culmination of extensive planning, and has come about only through the remarkable efforts of devoted people whose commitment to the project should be commended. I would like to personally recognize the Chief Minister of Punjab Prakash Singh Badal and his council of ministers; members of the Legislative Assembly; Members of the Parliament; Serv Shri Surjeet Singh Barnala, Union Minister of India; Sukhbir Singh Badal; Jathedar Bhair Ranjit Singh; Jathedar Bhair Gurucharan Singh Tohra, M.P.; Bhajendra Singh Haumdard, M.P.; Didar Singh Bhens; and the founder president of the Ambedkar International Mission U.S.A., Hardyal Singh.

To further mark this auspicious occasion, the Honorable Chief Minister of the State of Punjab, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, has proposed the development of Anandpar Sahib, a city in Punjab to reflect the rich heritage of Sikh culture. Included in the proposal is the Khalsa Heritage Memorial Complex, the Khalsa Memorial Academic Institute, a gallery of paintings, and a Sikh military museum among other things. Also planned is a Khalsa heritage memorial which will be three hundred feet high to mark this Tercentenary Celebration.

Once again, I would like to send my best wishes for this event, and my personal congratulations on this joyous occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 1998

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, on April 1 of this year, several of my colleagues and I introduced H.R. 3623, the "Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act of 1998," which would simplify the computation of capital gains taxes for all individual taxpayers. The bill would also provide modest capital gains tax reductions for millions of Americans.

At the time of introduction, I stated that we would modify the legislation if the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) determined upon reviewing the bill that there would be a revenue loss. Since then, I have learned from the JCT that this bill as originally introduced would lose revenue. With this concern in mind, I have decided to modify and reintroduce this capital gains legislation. The bill would now raise \$600 million over a ten-year period.

Based upon revenue considerations, we have modified the Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act of 1998 in several areas, none of which would affect the basic goal of substantially simplifying the taxation of capital

gains for individual taxpayers. The principal modification would reduce the basic deduction from gross income for the net capital gains of individual taxpayers to 38 percent, rather than 40 percent in the original legislation. Another modification would change the taxation of collectibles so that any gain or loss from the sale or exchange of a collectible would be treated as a short-term capital gain or loss. Consistent with the treatment of capital gains under current law, the tax rates that apply to capital gain income for regular tax purposes would also apply for alternative minimum tax purposes.

Under current law, the Schedule D has become very burdensome for ordinary taxpayers as they attempt to comply with the current capital gains tax law. The IRS estimates that a typical taxpayer with a capital gain will spend 5 hours and 20 minutes filling out his or her Schedule D. This is two hours more than in 1994. Moreover, the changes of making an error in filling out this complicated 54-line form have increased due to this additional complexity. In this respect, this bill's simple 38 percent exclusion for capital gains would be substituted for the confusing array of capital gains tax rates under current law, and at no cost to the U.S. Treasury.

Mr. Speaker, should the Ways and Means Committee decide to take up a tax bill this year, it is my hope that this legislation would be included as part of any ultimate package. We need to make the tax code less complex—and less burdensome—for the American taxpayer. The Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act of 1998 would go a long way toward achieving that goal.

Several of my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee, including Representatives RANGEL, STARK, MATSUI, KENNELLY, McDERMOTT, LEWIS, NEAL and BECERRA, join me in introducing this legislation. I urge my other colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this capital gains simplification bill.

RETIREMENT OF JACK B. CRITCHFIELD

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Jack B. Critchfield, a good friend of mine. On June 30, 1998, Jack Critchfield retired from his post as Chairman of the Board of Florida Process Corporation, which is the holding company for Florida's second largest investor-owned electric utility. Jack was born and raised in Pennsylvania. He graduated from Slippery Rock State College with a Bachelor of Science degree, then went on to the University of Pittsburgh for a Master's Degree and a Doctorate. Jack also holds an honorary law degree from Rollins College, which is located in my district.

He began his career in academics as a history teacher and counselor at Rockwood High School in Pennsylvania, then went to the University of Pittsburgh as Dean of Admissions and Student Financial Aid, Asst. Chancellor and Associate Professor of Higher Education. After his accomplishments in Pennsylvania, he moved to Winter Park, Florida, where Jack was President of Rollins College. After devot-

ing many years to education Jack decided to enter the business world. He began his pursuit as President of Winter Park Telephone, then joined Florida Power Corporation as Vice President. Jack moved to the Florida Progress Corporation, the parent corporation of Florida Power Corporation, as Vice President of Energy and Technology, and was subsequently promoted to President and Chief Operating Officer. In Federal of 1990, he became Chief Executive Officer of Florida Progress Corporation, and a year later was named as Chairman of the Board.

Jack is the past chairman and current director of the Florida Council of 100. He is the former director of Barnett Banks of Florida, and of Barnett Bank of Pinellas County. He is also associated with and has devoted much of his time to Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the Florida Endowment Fund for Higher Education.

Jack Critchfield also became very involved by dedicating time and energy as a member of the Governors Commission for Government By the People and was a remarkable Chairman of the Commission's Education Committee. Dr. Critchfield also worked persistently behind the scenes to bring professional and major league baseball to the state of Florida.

Jack has obviously been a very ambitious and successful man. Although he will continue his work in education, he will certainly be missed by the Florida Progress Corporation. I am sure Jack will spend more time improving his golf game and caring for his young daughter. I just hope that he remains as active as he has been. Mr. Speaker, Jack Critchfield is a great friend and I would like my colleagues to join me in wishing Jack the best as he retires.

THE NOTCH BABY HEALTH CARE RELIEF ACT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to assist the over 6 million senior citizens who have been negatively impacted by the Social Security Amendments of 1977. Seniors born between the years 1917 and 1921—the "Notch Babies"—have received lower Social Security monthly payments than those seniors born shortly before or after this five period. My legislation, the Notch Baby Health Care Relief Act, will offset the reduction in Social Security benefits by providing a tax credit for Medicare Part B premiums.

The approach taken in my new bill is different than that taken in my Notch Baby Act of 1977 (H.R. 146) or in any other Notch bill introduced in this Congress. In fact, the approach taken in this legislation was suggested to me by one of my own constituents—adjust Medicare insurance payments for Notch Babies. Specifically, my new bill provides a refundable tax credit for monthly Medicare Part B premiums for senior citizens born between the years 1917 and 1921, their spouses and their windows or windowers. The bill also eliminates the Medicare Part B premium late enrollment penalty for these individuals.

As health care expenses can take up a large proportion of a senior's retirement in-

come, this tax credit can go a long way to both correct the inequity caused by the Notch and to help seniors meet their health care needs. I urge my colleagues to review the Notch Baby Health Care Relief Act, to discuss this legislation with the seniors in their districts, and to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

V-103 FM AND WGCI AM/FM UNITY DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas for the first time in Chicago history, two competing radio stations V-103 FM and WGCI AM/FM have united to sponsor "Unity Day 1998", a community oriented event in Washington Park.

Whereas "Unity Day 1998" will bring together hundreds of thousands of people to collectively focus on family values, the power of hope, self-discipline and the strength of a unified people.

Whereas Unity Day is a daylong celebration highlighted by a festival of fun, entertainment, education and leadership from the community. V-103 and WGCI AM/FM are presenting special awards to several community social and cultural organizations; and

Whereas the DuSable Museum of African American History, HRDI, Inc., Old St. Paul Church, Westside Cultural Center (Douglas Park), and the Soul Children of Chicago are worthy of the Unity Day Awards; and

Whereas the DuSable Museum of African American History is the nation's oldest, non-profit institution devoted to the collection, preservation, interpretation and dissemination of African American History; and

Whereas the Human Resources Development Institute, Inc., (HRDI), is the largest African American behavioral healthcare and social service organization in the State of Illinois committed to improving the quality of life for people in all communities; and

Whereas the Soul Children of Chicago, founded in 1981 by Walt Whitman exemplifies Unity Day 1998 by promoting self-esteem, leadership and good moral character among our youth; and

Whereas the Westside Cultural Center, Douglas Park works to develop camaraderie, friendship and exposes our inner city youth to cultural and youth development activities; and

Whereas Old St. Paul Church provides spiritual guidance and support to our communities and support families, the power of love and hope; and

Whereas Marv Dyson, President and General Manager, WGCI AM/FM and Donald T. Moore, Senior Vice President and general manager, V-103 should be commended for their contributions and support of our communities; and

Whereas V-103, an award winning radio station consistently provides the best hits and dusties to primarily the African American communities; and

Whereas WGCI AM/FM, winner of many awards, "Plays the Hits" and "All Dusties